

The project aims at demonstrating removal of barriers in conversion of biomass to energy.

Formation of National Bio-Diesel Policy

1260. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although *Jatropha* has been on the fringes of the National consciousness, promising to take care of the nation's fuel worries, Government have been slow in formulating the long overdue National Bio-diesel Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as there is no concrete national plan, the plants are running on imported vegetable oil instead of homegrown low maintenance *Jatropha*; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to formulate the National Bio diesel Policy at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) A Draft National Policy on Bio-fuels, which also includes bio-diesel from *Jatropha* and other non-edible oil bearing plants, has been prepared. The Ministry of Rural Development have taken up a national Mission on Bio-diesel with focus on large scale plantation of *Jatropha curcas* and *Pongamia pinnata* on forest and non-forest waste lands. Under this National Mission, the Ministry of Rural Development has processed the proposal for demonstration of *Jatropha* and *Pongamia* in 3 lakh hectares of land with the Expenditure Finance Committee of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Rural Development have provided financial assistance of Rs. 49 crores to nine States for raising *Jatropha* nurseries.

Schemes for electrification of villages in forest area

†1261. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes made by Government for the electrification of villages situated in inaccessible and forest areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.